IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 4-6 and 9-10 are pending in this application, wherein claims 1-3 are hereby withdrawn without prejudice or disclaimer, as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) A raw tire preheating method for preheating a raw tire including metal members embedded therein, comprising:

   preheating said metal members inductively by means of a high frequency magnetic field; and

   simultaneously transmitting radiative heat towards at least two portions of the raw tire embedded with one of said metal members and at least another two portions of the raw tire embedded with another one of said metal members, said at least two portions and said at least another two portions being induced to generate heat lower than other portions of the raw tire embedded with said one of said metal members so as to heat said raw tire evenly.

2. (Withdrawn) A raw tire preheating method according to claim 1, wherein one of said metal members is embedded in a tread portion, and said radiative heat is targeted towards end portions of said tread portion.

3. (Withdrawn) A raw tire preheating method according to claim 2, wherein another one of said metal members is embedded in a bead portion, said radiative heat is targeted towards said end portions of said tread portion and said bead portion.

4. (Previously Presented) A raw tire preheating apparatus for preheating a raw tire including metal members embedded therein, comprising:

   (a) a retaining means for retaining said raw tire in a predetermined attitude in a releasable manner;

   (b) an induction heating means for heating said metal members inductively by means of a high frequency magnetic field, said high frequency magnetic field being applied to said raw tire retained by said retaining means;

   (c) a plurality of radiation heaters targeting towards at least two portions of the raw tire embedded with one of said metal members and at least another two portions of the raw tire embedded with another one of said metal members, said at least two portions and said at least another two portions being induced by said induction heating means to generate heat lower than other portions of the raw tire embedded with said one of said metal members so as to heat said raw tire evenly; and

(d) a controller for coordinating said induction heating means and said radiation heater to heat said raw tire evenly.

5. (Previously Presented) The raw tire preheating apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein one of said metal members is embedded in a tread portion, while said radiation heater is arranged to heat one of end portions of said tread portion.

6. (Original) The raw tire preheating apparatus according to Claim 4, comprising a tire rotation means for rotating raw tires retained by said retaining means circumferentially.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The raw tire preheating apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein another one of said metal members is embedded in a bead portion, another radiation heater is arranged to heat said end portion of said tread portion and said bead portion.

10. (Previously Presented) The raw tire preheating apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein one of said metal members is embedded in a tread portion, while said radiation heater is arranged to heat a central portion of said tread portion.